Dr. Suzanne Insook Ahn was born in Pusan, South Korea and raised in the United States. She was a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

Dr. Ahn trained at Parkland Hospital in Dallas and maintained a successful practice as a neurologist for thirteen years. She was the youngest person, and only the second woman, to serve on the Texas State Medical Board of Examiners in its 100-year history. Dr. Ahn was the co-inventor of 14 U.S. patents and founded the medical division of a start-up technology company.

A recognized civic leader and advocate of women’s rights, she founded the Summit, a group of Dallas women in decision-making positions. Dr. Ahn was instrumental in organizing the Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter of the American Medical Women’s Association.

Dr. Suzanne Ahn was a strong advocate for Asian Americans. She lectured across the country on civil rights and lobbied vigorously for the rights of Asian American workers at the Ward’s Cove cannery. Dr. Ahn led a march against Dallas nightclubs that illegally banned Asian Americans. In 2002 she led picketers at a bookstore in Plano that was denying service to Asian Americans. Dr. Ahn was a founder of the Asian American Forum that provides leadership training for Asian Americans in Dallas/Fort Worth.

In 1991, Dr. Ahn worked in the Texas Air Control Board to control air pollution. As she often pointed out, half of all those with lung cancer are non-smokers. Indeed, the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex is plagued by severely poor air quality that will continue to kill some of our best and brightest—such as Dr. Ahn.

Mr. Speaker, we must improve air quality in metropolitan areas across this Country or we will face disastrous consequences both in terms of our health and our economy. In Dr. Ahn’s memory, I reaffirm my efforts to promote alternative transportation and cleaner power generation so that future generations will not grow up in a haze that will shorten their lives, happiness, and contributions to our society.

I join the residents of Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex in extending our condolences to her family. A physician, inventor, community leader, and civil rights activist, Dr. Ahn was a remarkable woman who will be deeply missed and never forgotten. She will be remembered for her enthusiasm, her vision, her dedication to equal rights and her many contributions to the State of Texas.